exist for the trader in fuel. There is no reason why those who make a trade by cutting fuel from Government land and bringing into towns and selling it for a profit should be exempted from the prescribed seigniorage, which is a very just source of income. (See Subject No. 207.)

Subject No. 20.

Removal of silt in Madak Tank.

Summary of discussion.—Raiyats should be compelled to clear the silt in the bed of the Madak Tank as usual, receiving the day's food from Government. Every one using the water of the tank in any way is bound to do this work of clearing silt.

Colonel Bowen, the Chief Engineer, in reply to the Dewan's enquiry, explained that there is in this tank the special arrangement of an under-sluice in order to allow of some silt being washed through it, when opened. A large number of people being collected and made to stir up the muddy water and the silt when the water was low after the cultivation season, and this under-sluice being kept open, some silt did escape in that way. It was very insignificant. The process was tried by the Chief Engineer himself in the case of a tank in the Gundlupet Taluk with the result that hardly $\frac{1}{50}$th of the quantity of silt in the small area immediately round the opening was thus got rid of. The process recommended can be of no possible use. It is far better to raise the bund of the tank, so as to make good the loss of capacity due to silting. In reply to further enquiry by the Dewan, Colonel Bowen observed that the irrigating sluice was not in danger of being buried in the silt for many years to come.

Dewan's reply.—Government cannot in these days impress labor in the way suggested, nor will there be any practical benefit by the operation of silt clearing which has been described. By raising the waste weir, the loss of capacity due to silting will be made good and actual silt-clearing will also be carried out to the extent necessary to keep the irrigating sluice clear.

Subject No. 21.

Hittals for stacking straw.

Summary of discussion.—It has been a custom to make hittals in villages for stacking grass without Government authority. When such hittals were applied for heretofore by any one for building purposes, they were being sold. Now-a-days the possessors of such hittals advance claims of ownership and prevent their sale. Such claims are often allowed, thus causing inconvenience to applicants, who can find no other suitable sites to build their houses.

Dewan's reply.—This is a matter for which it is difficult to devise a remedy. Every claim to a hittal must be tried and disposed of on its merits, and where the claim is allowed the hittal of course is not available for sale to a new applicant; mere unauthorized possession cannot give a title to the hittal

but possession unquestioned for a long series of years is evidence of title. If the village community are idle and allow private rights to spring up in the common property, they as a body naturally suffer inconvenience in consequence and the Government cannot help them.

Subject No. 22.
Importation of agricultural laborers.

Summary of discussion.—As regards taking up banjar lands in populated and depopulated villages although the raiyats of one village lead a difficult life for want of sufficient lands for cultivation, they seldom emigrate to another village and take up lands there available. If the Government therefore undertake to send for men from the North Arcot and other Districts and encourage them to take up lands for cultivation, both the Government and the public would be benefitted. In some parts of Mysore the extent of land is small, but the population is large; and in other parts the case is just the reverse, some landholders pay banjar kandayam for several years in the hope of getting men to cultivate the same. An officer should be deputed by Government to fetch raiyats as above and experimentally locate them in the Kadur and Arsikere Taluks.

Dewan's reply.—Government must do nothing in this matter. The evil complained of is far from general and is probably confined to small areas of the Taluks named. The Railway through these Taluks will soon make a difference. It is for private enterprise to offer the necessary inducements for the importation of agricultural labor where necessary.

Subject No. 23.
Free licenses for date leaves.

Summary of discussion.—Agriculturists requiring date leaves for their own *bonâ fide* use are required to take out licenses for cutting the date leaves. This entails considerable inconvenience and hardship and risks of penalty for infringement of the conditions of the license. The system should be abolished and raiyats allowed to take the leaves without a license.

Note.—This subject was also brought forward by Mr. Basappa (Representative from Hiriyur Taluk, Chitaldroog District) who suggested that Patels may be empowered to grant the licenses as it is inconvenient to go to the Amildar for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—The present rules are very liberal. Before they were enacted, raiyats had to pay for date leaves to the Toddy Contractor any price which he thought fit to ask. Now they have only to take out a license which is granted free of charge. It is not every Patel that can be entrusted with the power of granting these licenses. But Deputy Commissioners have been allowed discretion to authorize such subordinates, as they may consider fit, to issue them. It is